



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s): Chen et al.
Docket No.: YO999-172
Serial No.: 09/345,238
Filing Date: June 30, 1999
Group: 2654
Examiner: Qi Han

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited on this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Signature: Jim Manna Date: December 26, 2002

Title: Method and Apparatus for Tracking Speakers in an Audio Stream

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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JAN 03 2003

Technology Center 2600

SIR:

Submitted herewith is an Amendment and Response to an Office Action relating to the above-identified patent application. There is no additional claim fee due in connection with the Response.

In the event of non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-0510** as required to correct the error. Duplicate copies of this letter are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 26, 2002



Docket No. YOR919990304US1

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s): Chen et al.
Docket No.: YO999-172
Serial No.: 09/342,450 345, 238
Filing Date: June 30, 1999
Group: 2671
Examiner: Huedung X. Cao

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Signature: *Jim Mannix* Date: December 26, 2002

Title: Method and Apparatus for Tracking Speakers in an Audio Stream

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

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Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the outstanding Office Action, dated August 27, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows. A version of the amendments which have been marked to show all changes is included in the Appendix.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

Speakers are automatically identified in an audio (or video) source. The audio information is processed to identify potential segment boundaries. Homogeneous segments are clustered substantially concurrently with the segmentation routine, and a cluster identifier is assigned to each identified segment. A segmentation subroutine identifies potential segment boundaries using the BIC model selection criterion. A clustering subroutine uses a BIC model selection criterion to assign a cluster identifier to each of the identified segments. If the difference of BIC values for each model is positive, the two clusters are merged.